ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BETHLEHEM

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

MONROEVILLE CHURCH

Monroe County, Ala.

September 19 and 20

1900

Moderator, B. J. SKINNER, Monroeville, Ala.
Clerk, S. H. DAILEY, Kempville, Ala.
Treasurer, T. S. WIGGINS, Monroeville, Ala.

Next session will be held with Salem Church, Monroe County, Ala.
beginning at eleven o'clock A. M., on Friday before
the fourth Sunday in September
1901

AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

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Eleven Thousand Sunday-schools Organized.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call the body to order.
2. Reading the letters, or refering to committee enrollment.
3. Electing officers of body.
4. Fixing time of meeting, and adjourning.
5. Appointing committee on divine services.
6. Reception of new churches.
7. Recognition of visiting brethren.
8. Appoint committees to report during session.
9. Hearing reports of standing committees.
10. Hearing report of special committees.
11. Appointment of committees to report next session.
12. New business, resolutions, etc.
13. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association met in its Eighty-fourth annual session with Monroeville Baptist Church on Wednesday, the 19th day of September, 1900, at 11 o'clock. A. M., Elder B. J. Skinner, Moderator, presiding, with S. H. Dailey as Clerk.

By request of the Moderator, who was the appointee, Elder W. G. Curry preached the introductory sermon, from 3rd chapter and 2nd verse of 1st Epistle of John: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

At the close of the sermon the Moderator appointed Brethren J. W. Gaston, N. A. McNiel and S. M. Roberts a committee on credentials, who soon made report, and Messengers were enrolled as follows:

BARBARA LOCKLIN MEMORIAL—H. A. Baggett, W. J. Curry.

BETHANY—W. S. Nash, D. H. Lee, L. R. Riley, L. S. Brantley.

BELLVILLE—J. W. Gaston, R. H. Riggs, S. P. Lindsey, Wm. Holt, J. V. Andrews, D. S. Crum.

EXCEL—J. G. Gardner, Julius Wright, C. G. Griffin.

ENON—C. E. Coley, W. J. Weston, A. White, N. A. McNiel.

HAMILTON HILL—E. B. O'Guynn, S. P. Hetherington, J. W. Boley.

MONROEVILLE—B. J. Skinner, T. J. Emmons, T. S. Wiggins, C. M. Simmons, T. J. Grantham.

MOUNT OLIVE—John Morris.

OAK GROVE—C. M. Carter, B. T. Lowrey, L. Wiggins.

PLEASANT HILL—J. M. Grimes, A. J. Stacey, Sr., A. J. Stacey, Jr.

PLEASANT RIDGE—Joe M. Dees, F. M. Murphy, G. H. Roley. Charley Biggs. L. W. Rikard.

PHILADELPHIA—J. T. Newberry, S. H. Dailey. I. T. Dees, W. T. Nettles.

POPLAR SPRINGS—J. W. Murphy.

RAMAH—T. H. Rains.

REPTON—C. H. Stallworth.

SALEM—L. A. Hendrix, C. E. Carter, Lee Hendrix, Alex King, S. M. Roberts.

ZION—R. N. Weston, C. R. Hixon, Len. Metts.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

By request of the Moderator, Elders W. G. Curry and G. S. Anderson acted as tellers to receive the ballots cast for officers of the Association. The election resulted in the election of Elder B. J. Skinner, Moderator, and S. H. Dailey, Clerk.

The Moderator appointed Elder W. G. Curry and the Deacons of Monroeville church a committee on preaching.

The Association then took a recess until 5 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association reconvened at 2 o'clock, P. M. Devotional exercises were conducted by Elder A. S. J. Countryman.

A motion prevailed that this body meet at 9 o'clock, A. M., adjourn at 12:30, reconvene at 2 P. M., and adjourn at pleasure.

The following named Brethren (including all who reported during the session), were recognized as visitors, invited to seats and to participate in the deliberations, viz: Elder D. W. Ramsey, Pine Barren Association; Elder W. G. Curry, Bigby Association; Elder J. E. Holly and Bro. Alex. Stewart, Conecuh Association; Elders J. S. Wood and W. R. Lambert, Birmingham Association; Elder H. F. Sims, Alabama Association; Elder G. S. Anderson, Instituie Board.

By request of the Moderator, Elder S. P. Lindsey read the Constitution.

Elder G. S. Anderson addressed the Association in the interest of the Institute Board, appealing to the body for sympathy and help. In response to the appeal the following amounts were pledged by the churches named, to be paid by November 1, 1900: Bellville, $10; Repton, $2.50; Enon, $5; Pleasant Hill, $2.50, Excel, $2.50; Philadelphia, $2.50; Bethany, $2.50; Poplar Springs, $2; Pleasant Ridge, $2.50; Hamilton Hill, $2.50; Zion, $2.50; Salem, $2.50; Monroeville, $5; Barbara Locklin, $2.50. A public collection was also taken for the benefit of the Board, of $3.73.

The Moderator appointed T. J. Emmons, D. S. Crum and W. T. Nettles a committee on finance.

Elder D. W. Ramsey in the chair, Elder B. J. Skinner, chairman of the committee appointed at the last session of this body to revise the Constitution, made report which was adopted.

The Association adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY.

The Association convened at 9 o'clock, A. M. Devotional exercises conducted by Elder W. R. Lambert.

Owing to the change in the constitution it became necessary to elect a Treasurer; on motion, Bro. T. S. Wiggins was unanimously elected to fill said office.

Chairman of Executive Committee made report, said report

and also report of Treasurer of said committee, postponed until 2 o'clock, P. M.

On motion by Elder S. P. Lindsey, speeches were limited to fifteen minutes.

Elder S. P. Lindsey read the report on missions, and after being ably discussed by Elder's D. W. Ramsey, J. E. Holly, J. S. Wood, W. G. Curry and S. P. Lindsey, was adopted as follows and a collection taken up for missions, amounting to $11.44.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

About nineteen hundred years ago there was inaugurated the first work of missions in which we as followers of Christ are engaged to day. The purpose which Jesus had, and still has in view, is the salvation of lost souls; every soul without Christ is lost, whether in this land of Christian civilization or in the darkest recesses of benighted heathenism. It is therefore a God-given privilege for each and every follower of Christ to be engaged in the glorious work of rescuing lost souls. Christians are prompted to this work in a two-fold way. First, we see it as a duty, a command having issued forth from the great law giver "Go ye therefore and preach the Gospel to every Creature;" we are to teach all nations.

Again, we are constrained to engage in this delightful work by the love of, and for Christ our brother so loved the lost world, that he gave his life a ransom for the same, and with a loving, confinding confidence said "If ye love me keep my commandments." It is in this life that we are to keep his commandment and do his work. The command of our Master is to go into all the world causes us as Baptists to undertake what we believe to be the duty of our denomination.

FOREIGN MISSION WORK.

We are making rapid progress as a denomination in this department of our work, but still there are vast territories untouched, and countless millions are still in darkness; they make pathetic appeal to us for help, and the dying heathan are calling to us for help, and the Lord is commanding us to help. Will we not help those? Our foreign mission board at Richmond, Va., in obedience to the orders given by our convention at Hot Springs, has enlarged our work, they have "lengthended the cords," and is anxious for us to "strengthen our stakes."

The work and obligation of this board extends to the remotest bounds of the inhabited world. Despite adverse circumstances, particularly in China, our Board, through our missionaries is doing a great work.

HOME MISSIONS.

We have also the department of Home Mission work, under the management of our Home Board located at Atlanta, Ga.

The work of this Board is particulary among the foreign population of our own country; on the frontier, in our cities, towns, monutain districts and in Cuba.

If we are loyal to our Lord and true to our country, we will rally to the support of this board as never before, for it is battling against the foe among our own people at home.

STATE MISSIONS.

Under this head we undertake work only in Alabama. The duty of this board is to keep vigilance over the interest of the Master's Kingdom in our own state.

We instruct Bro. W. B. Crumpton, our secretary to receive our contributions and direct them where they are most needed. Brethren there is no distinction with the Lord in our duty to a lost world. His command is for us to give; to make sacrifices if need be, for His work, and He will take care of the result.

Let us determine that during the incoming Associational year, we will do more work for the blessed Savior than at any time in our history.

When we approach our duty, God has promised to bless us. All Glory to His holy name for giving us a part in this grand work of bringing the world to Christ. Respectfully Submitted.

S. P. LINDSEY, Chm.

Bro. T. S. Wiggins made report on Sabbath schools, which was discussed by Elders W. R. Lambert, D. W. Ramsey and J. E. Holly, and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sunday schools regret that they cannot present a more encouraging report on this branch of Christian effort than can be made from the statistics given in the letters of the various churches, which should be the means and medium of information on the subject. From an inspection of the church letters only five report Sunday schools, with an aggregate enrollment of less than 300. We feel sure, however, that a number of schools are not reported. This omission on the part of our churches indicates a lack of interest on the part of the churches in the Sunday school, and, we submit, a misconception of the proper relation between the two. We ask, Is not the Sunday school the church at work? Should not each church conference be fully informed as to the condition and management of its school and take full and complete control of it? We believe if this should be done, a more general interest would be taken, enlisting more of the membership and thereby rendering the school more effective. The school belongs to the church, in fact is, or should be, a part of it and under its control instead of under the control of one person, the superintendent, who is not responsible to any body, and whose acts and conduct are not subject to the scrutiny or control of any power. N. A. MCNIEL. Chn.

Bro. W. S. Nash read the report on Education, which was discussed by Elders J. E. Holly, W. G. Curry and J. S. Wood and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Alabama should feel proud of her colleges and schools of high order in all portions of the state. Howard College, which is a Baptist institution located at East Lake, and now free from debt, equips a young man mentally for business and professional life, and offers superior advantages in moral training. The number of ministerial students at Howard last year was 25. Number paying their own expenses, 8; number depending on the board for aid, 17. For the special training of ministers we have the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. No. of students from Alabama, 16; whole number of students, 250.

The Judson Institute, situated at Marion, and the Central Female College at Tuskaloosa, are for young ladies, and the graduates of these colleges testify to their merits as schools thoroughly competent for their training in life. The Judson has accommodation for about 200 pupils. We should patronize the Howard, the Judson and the Central. W. S. NASH, Chn.

Bro. D. H. Lee read report on Orphans Home discussed by Elder J. E. Holly and adopted as follows:

ORPHAN'S HOME.

Your committee on Orphans Home beg leave to submit the following: The Home is located at Evergreen, Ala., and is the property of the Baptists of Alabama and under the control of the State Baptist convention. The Home has been in operation about seven years; since the institution it has done a great and noble work; boys and girls have been received into the Home from all parts of the state, to say that the Home is a grand institution only expresses its worth in a measure. It is an institution. we have reason to believe, that it cares for the morals and spiritual welfare of its inmates, as well as for their physical and their domestic life. We your committe do not think that we pay as much attention to this part of our work as we should; it is very important and is our duty towards God as well as our fellow man to care for these children who have been received into the Home since it has been in operation. A great many hindrances have come in the way to mar its progress, but each time in the wise providence of God it has come through it all and it still lives to do a great work. Work for helpless humanity, Brethren, this is an important and progressive work. Can we as a denomination of Christians allow it to stop? We say we cannot: let us rally to it our support, both our means and our prayers. It is God's cause and is our duty to support it, and if we neglect it we believe God will hold us responsible for the negligence. The Home is in charge and under the management of our efficient and faithful secretary, Bro. J. W. Stewart, who will receive all contributions. Let us assist him and Sister Stamps in their efforts to support and take care of these little ones. Respectfully Submitted, D. H. LEE, Chn.

Adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met at 2 o'clock and the report of the Executive Board was taken up and dicussed by Elders B. J. Skinner, T. J. Grantham, A. S. J. Countryman, S. P. Lindsey and J. E. Holly, adopted as read, and the following pledges made by the churches for its support to be paid Quarterly. Bellville, $5.00: Bethany,$5.00; Barbara Locklin, $5.00; Enon, $5.00; Excel, $2.50; Hamilton Hill, $2.50; Monroeville, $10.00; Oak Grove, $2.50; Philadelphia, $5.00; Pleasant Hill, $5.00; Pleasant Ridge, $2.50; Poplar Springs, $2.50; Rama, $2.50; Salem, $2.50; Zion, $2.50.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Your committe beg leave to submit the following report: During the Association year we have endeavored to carryout the

object for which said Board was created, but owing to the limited means at our disposal have been unable to accomplish as much as was desired. The destitute portions of the Assosiation have been partly supplied by Bro. T. J. Grantham under and by the direction of the Board. from his report we find that he has supplied New Hopewell church during the year to which church there have been several accessions: he has also supplied Deer Range the most of the year. at which place there is no organized church, but prospects are good for the organization of a church. He has also preached at other points within the bounds of the Association, but still we believe there are other destitute points that go unsupplied. We believe that great good can be accomplished through this Board if sustained by a proper interest and sympathy on the parts of the churches, but we are sorry to state that it has not received the co-operation of its own members that we believe it should have. We ask the prayers and co-operation of all as to the financial condition of the Board. We refer to the Treasurer report. S. H. Dailey, Chn.

NOMINATIONS AND REQUESTS.

We recommend that this body meet in annual session with the Salem Baptist Church Monroe county, Ala., on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September 1901, and that Elder S. P. Lindsey preached the introductory sermon, that Elder B. J. Skinner be appointed messenger to the Southern Baptist convention. and that Bro's T. S. Wiggins, S. H. Dailey and N. A. McNiel, messengers to State Baptist convention.

This report was amended so as to dispense with the Executive and Advisory Boards. and an Executive Committee substituted therefor, consisting of S. H. Dailey ch'n. L. R. Riley, secretary and treasurer, T. S. Wiggins, W. S. Wiggins sr. and T. J. Emmons, whose duty is to co-operate with the State Board of missions in supplying preaching to the destitute portions within the bounds of the Association.

Elder W. G. Curry from committee on preaching announced that Elder D. W. Ramsey would preach in the church to-night.

Elder W. R. Lambert read report on Religious literature: on motion a portion of said report was struck out and the balance adopted as follows:

We your committee on Literature beg leave to submit the following report: We insist that every Baptist family within the bounds of the Association, take and read the Alabama Baptist and Foreign Mission Journal. We recomend the Southern Baptist Convention Series as suitable for our Sunday Schools. We recomend that all trashy literature, calculated to create bad impression on the minds of the young, be dismissed from our homes and replaced with good literature which will enlighten and elevate the mind. H. A. Baggett, Chm.

The clerk read report on Temperance, discussed by Elders D. W. Ramsey, J. E. Holly and W. G. Curry and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

While much has been said and done for the cause of temperance, we must continue to work for the suppression of the liquor

traffic. We believe the custom of social drinking is growing more and more unpopular as time goes by and public sentiment is growing stronger against drunkenness.

G. H. ROLEY, Chm.

Bro. C. E. Coley made report on the condition of churches, which wus adopted, as follows:

CONDITION OF CHURCHES.

Your committee beg leave to report that they have examined the letters from the churches comprising this body, and find that few have reported the spiritual condition thereof. We are therefore compelled to rely upon such facts as are obtainable from inquiry and observation, and we believe that the churches gensrally are in a better spiritual condition than they were one year ago. Respectfully submitted. C. E. COLEY, Chn.

Bro. T. J. Emmons from the Finance committee made report. which was adopted.

The Treasurer made report which was adopted.

The Moderator rppointed the following named committees to report at the next session of this body.

ON MISSIONS—A. S. J. Countryman, J. M. Grimes and C. E. Coley.

ON EDUCATION—S. P. Lindsey, T. B. Nettles and W. S. Nash.

ON ORPHAN'S HOME—E. B. O'Guynn, Len Metts and L. A. Hixon.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS—D. H. Lee, J. T. Newberry and G. H. Roley.

ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE—T. J. Emmons, T. J. Grantham and J. D. Boykin.

ON TEMPERANCE—N. A. McNiel, J. W. Gaston and C. M. Carter.

On motion a collection was taken up for the benefit of Mrs. W. A. Locke amounting to $13.05.

Elder S. P. Lindsey offered the following resolutions which was adopted:

Resolved, That the secretary of our Executive committee be instructed to communicate the action of this Association in regard to co-operation in future; in securing the services of a capable man for a part or the whole of his time, also communicate the action of this body in .eference to raising the salary of snch a Brother.

Resolved That the thanks of this body is hereby tendered the Monroeville Baptist Church and all of the good people of Monroeville for their hospitable entertainmeht during the sitting of this body.

The business of the Association being closed after the Benediction, pronounced by Elder W. G. Curry, adjourned to meet with the Salem Baptist Church, Monroe County, Ala., on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September A. D. 1901.

S. H. DAILEY, Cleak.

B. J. SKINNER, Moderator.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

A. J. LAMBERT, Mount Pleasant, Ala.
S. P. LINDSEY, Bellville, Ala.
B. J. SKINNER, Monroeville, Ala.
R. I. DRAUGHON, Perdue Hill, Ala.
T. J. GRANTHAM, Ollie, Ala.
A. S. J. COUNTRYMAN, Hadley, Ala.

LICENTIATES.

W. R. LAMBERT, Mount Pleasant, Ala.
G. H. ROLEY, Monroeville, Ala.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

THOS. S. WIGGINS, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1899.		DR.	CR.
Sept. 21	To amt received for State Missions	$23 29	
" "	To amt received for Home Missions	25 00	
" "	To amt received for Foreign Missions	30 81	
" "	To amt received for Minutes	25 96	
" "	To amt received for Orphan's Home	15 30	$120 36
" "	By amt paid W. B. Crumpton	79 10	
" "	By amt paid John W. Stewart	15 30	
" "	By amt paid S. H. Dailey	25 96	120 36
Nov. 14	To amt rec'd Phila. Foreign Missions	4 60	
Dec. 19	To amt rec'd " Ministerial Education	3 90	8 50
Jan. 1, '00	By amt paid W. B. Crumpton	4 60	
" "	By amt paid W. A. Hobson $3 81, pst 9	3 90	8 50
" 31	To amt Pleasant Ridge ch. Min. Ed'c'n	1 70	
" "	To amt B. C. ch. Ministerial Educat'n.	2 20	
Mch. 24	To amt Monroeville ch. Min. Educat'n.	10 45	
" "	To amt Monroeville ch. For'gn Mis'ns.	11 69	26 04
Feb. 9	By amt to C. C. Jones $3 80, postg 10c.	3 90	
" "	By amt to W. B. Crumpton	11 55	
Mch. 24	By amt to W. A. Hobson	10 40	
" "	By amt postage and fees	19	26 04
May 28	To amt P. Ridge ch. Asso'c'nl Miss'ns	3 56	
" "	To amt Burnt Corn ch. do do	2 46	
" 30	To amt Philadelphia ch. do do	5 80	
June 11	To amt Monroeville ch. do do	12 00	
" 18	To amt Hamilton Hill ch do do	2 40	
Sept 7	To amt do do ch do do	2 00	28 22
Aug. 1	By amt to T. J. Grantham	5 00	
" "	By amt to T. J. Grantham	5 00	
Sept 19	By amt on hand	18 22	28 22

Total amt for all purposes	$183 12	
Total amt paid out		$164 90
Balance on hand Ass'n Miss'ns		18 22
Total		$ 183 12

Respectfully submitted,
Sept. 19, 1900. THOS. S. WIGGINS, Treasurer.

STATISTICS OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS FOR 1900.

CHURCH.	P. O.	SUPERINPENDENT.	Teachers.	Pupils.
Bethany	Diadem	A. J. Lee	3	25
Monroeville	Monroeville	T. S. Wiggins	5	25
Montgomery Hill	Tensas	T. P. Atkinson	4	25
Pleasant Hill	Manistee	W. L. Curry	5	28
Philadelphia	Kempville	J. T. Newberry	3	20
Repton	Repton	W. W. Brooks	2	20

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1st. This body shall be called the Bethlehem Baptist Association.

ART. 2nd. It shall be composed of Messengers appointed by the churches now constituting its membership, and such other churches as may be received.

ART. 3rd. Each church shall be entitled to 3 messengers and an additional messenger for each twenty five or majority fraction thereof above fifty of its membership.

ART. 4th. It shall meet annually at such time and place as shall be appointed, but said time and place, in case of necessity may be changed by the Moderator Secretary and Treasurer by giving sufficient notice to the churches.

ART. 5th. Its officers shall be a Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer elected annually and who shall serve in the duties of their respective offices until their successors are elected.

ART. 6th. This body shall exercise no ecclesiastical authority over the churches, shall not be a court of appeal in their internal troubles, but this article shall not be so construed as to prevent this body from dropping from her roll of membership, any church that has grossly departed from the faith as is generally held among us as a people.

ART. 7th. The business of this body shall be to hear seports from the churches of such matters of general interest as they deem proper to communicate, and consult together in planning and executing such measures as shall tend to the evangelization and edification of the world.

ART. 8th. This body may have correspondence with any other like body, sending or receiving brethren, and shall invite brethren representing our organized denominational interest to seats with us, allowing them every privilege except that of voting.

ART. 9th. The Constitution, Order of Business and Articles of Faith of Baptist Churches shall be published in the minutes as directed by the body.

ART. 10. The Secretary shall keep a file of the minutes of all of the sessions of this body.

ART. 11th. This Constitution may be altered, amended or replaced by a new one, by a two thirdvote at any regular session of the body, provided notive of the same shall be given a full day before its adoption

STATISTICS OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1900.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Last report Membership	Increase Baptism	Increase Letter	Increase Restoration	Decrease Letter	Decrease Exclusion	Decrease Death	Pres. Membership
Bellville	Conecuh	S. P. Lindsey	D. S. Crum	Belleville, Ala.	88	8	11	2	6		1	102
Barbara Locklin	Monroe	S. P. Lindsey	J. D. Boykin	Perdue Hill	61				1		2	58
Bethany	Monroe	B. J. Skinner	W. S. Nash	Burnt Corn	58				7		1	50
Brewer Creek	Conecuh				83							
Enon	Monroe	J. M. Hall	C. E. Coley	Hadley	67	4	4		1		1	73
Excel	"	A. S. J. Countryman	C. G. Griffin	Excel	46	4	1		3		1	47
Hamilton Hill	"	B. J. Skinner	L. A. Hixon	Hixon	54	2			1		1	54
Little River	"				20							
Monroeville	"	B. J. Skinner	J. DeLoach	Monroeville	109	2			2		1	108
Mount Pleasant	"				30							
Montgomery Hill	Baldwin	J. E. Holly	L. F. Warren	Tensas	30							30
Mount Olive	Monroe	B. J. Skinner	T. H. Brantley	Wait	11							11
Oak Grove	"	A. S. J. Countryman	L. Wiggins	Mexia	85	2	1	1	1	5	2	81
Pleasant Hill	"	S. P. Lindsey	J. W. Wilkinson	Manistee	94		6		3	3		94
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